

# Lesson 14

The Essentials of Christianity  
– Know What You Believe



Newness of Life

**“Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”**

Jude 3.

Put a mouse in a maze without any cheese at the end as an incentive. He may bop and bump his way around a lot of dead ends. As the powerful being who conducts the experiment, you may just shake your head at the way the mouse retraces paths, gets false starts, and is fooled by the smallest deception. If the maze is complicated enough, you may soon realize that the mouse may never find his way out.

Religion is a maze for many people—even some Christians. Sometimes we bump and bop our way along dead ends, accepting that others believe that there are many ways to God, temporarily deceived or distracted by the loud arguments of non-believers, or even embracing the merits of some other religions. If we allow ourselves to be controlled by what others think, rather than what has been taught to us in the Holy Bible, we may never find our way out of the confusion.

But let’s go back to our mouse in the maze. This time put a piece of tasty cheese at the end of the maze. You may be surprised to find that your seemingly dense mouse becomes Super Mouse as he concentrates on the desired food and races to a successful finish. If he could explain it to others, he would tell them that there is only one way. “Do not be fooled by what seems possible but is really a dead end,” he might advise.

The only way through the religious maze of our world is to focus on the prize...the taste of victory in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is documented. It is historic fact. Everything else is false and a dead end. There is only ONE WAY. Know it. Defend it. Tell others.

Have you noticed that representatives of other religions and beliefs are sometimes more passionate in supporting and defending their faith/beliefs than many Christians? Indeed, even people who have no faith, agnostics and atheists have a thought system to justify their positions and are happy to argue their beliefs.

As Christians, it is our belief that we have the truth...the truth of God based upon God's word as taught in the Old Testament and the teaching of Jesus Christ as recorded in the New Testament. Growing in Christ is an important activity. We need to learn to grow spiritually through prayer, study and worship. However, as Christians, we will be called upon to defend our faith. To that end, we must be prepared to support and defend the essentials of the historic Christian faith.

The greatest challenge that Christians have today is the generally accepted mistaken belief that there are many ways to God. The Bible is not always recognized as a source from God, but rather as a good book among many that provide enlightenment towards self-actualization. There are many people and organizations that work diligently toward chipping away at what Christians believe, from the teaching of the theory of evolution (See Appendix E) to the merits of eastern religions. When these assaults and opportunities come before us, we must not be shaken, but rather we should stand on the foundation of our faith and present our beliefs, in a positive way in hope of bringing people to Christ.

We must stand firm on the claim in John 14:6. "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but

through Me.'" God has made provision to have all people return to Him through his Son Jesus. Recognizing the nature of the Trinity, it is God himself, being one with Christ and the Holy Spirit, who gave of Himself to provide a way back to the establishment of a relationship and fellowship with Himself. Why would God use any other person, source or way to do the same thing?

We must follow the exhortation of Jude (who was the half brother of Jesus) in Jude 3. "Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." It is extremely important that we understand the essentials of the historic Christian faith, how to explain those essentials and when called upon, be able to defend our faith. In addition, it is important that each of us be able to bring people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

The basis (and beauty) of Christianity is in its simplicity, community, evangelism and love. It is based upon Jesus Christ who was born of the virgin Mary, conceived by the Holy Spirit, and came to this world to seek and save His people. The teachings of Jesus have changed the world, but the fact of his resurrection is the one historical fact that has established our religion. Read Luke 24:6; 38-43. "He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, / And He said to them, 'Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? / See My hands and My feet, that it is I myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' / And when he had said this, He showed them His

hands and His feet. /And while they still could not believe it for joy and were marveling, He said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?'/ And they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; / and He took it and ate it before them. / Now He said to them, 'These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.' /Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, / and He said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day; / and that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.'

The one essential difference in Christianity and all other religions is that Christ died, rose again, and was seen by hundreds of people as proof that He once again lived. All other prophets died and did not come back to life. Without this fact, Christianity would not have survived.

In Eerdmans' Handbook to the History of Christianity, it states, "The basic claim of the early Christians was that they had discovered a different way of life that was better than that offered by the non-Christian world. They believed that Jesus was the promised Messiah or Christ, and that he had freed them from their sins and transformed their lives through the power of the Holy Spirit. They were, in the words of the apostle Paul, new creations in Christ. They believed that theirs was a better way because it offered the believer forgiveness of sin, peace with God, hope for the future, a new and higher ethical code, power to live up to that special ethical standard,

and life after death. The Christian believer's first loyalty was to Jesus Christ; therefore, the Christian practiced a new ethic of love – even towards enemies. Christians emphasized concern for others rather than self. Many of the early converts to the faith, such as Justin Martyr, were first attracted by the love they saw among believers." (emphasis mine.) They observed the fruit of the spirit.

This article goes on to say, "In addition, the Christian emphasis on a community of love sealed by baptism appealed to many people who were otherwise without hope and desperately lonely. Many felt themselves adrift in a world grown too large, and they craved the type of intimate fellowship offered by the Christian congregations. The Christian community made no distinctions based upon race, nation, cultural status, slavery, freedom or sex. The Christian church was to be gathered from every nation, all tribes, peoples and language-groups. The sense of community was fostered by frequent meetings for worship, study, sharing and the celebration of a love feast called the agape. In short, the community of Christians gave many otherwise outcast people a real sense of identity and belonging."

Any religion that excludes people is not from God but is counterfeit. By knowing the essentials of the Christian faith you will be able to recognize those individuals and organizations that teach counterfeit. It is our responsibility to stay away from counterfeit teaching. But first you must be able to recognize truth. Use the following yardstick.

## The Essential Beliefs of the Christian–The Christian Yardstick.

1. Sin separates us from God. There would be no need for any religion if man had not separated himself/herself from God. What was the relationship between God and man/woman before sin was introduced through disobedience? Write down God’s instruction to Adam and Eve. This is a fundamental concept. If Adam and Eve had not sinned, there would have been no need for the teaching of the Old Testament or the New Testament. In other words, Jesus would never have had to die for us.
  - 1.1. Read Genesis 2:16-17 *“The LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; /but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.’”*
  - 1.2. What was the result of disobeying God? Read Genesis 3:6-7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 1.3. God told them that they would surely die if they ate from the tree. They experience three types of death. The first was the separation from God. This is a type of death. What were the other two?
    - 1.3.1. \_\_\_ Separation from God \_\_\_\_\_
    - 1.3.2. \_\_\_\_\_
    - 1.3.3. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1.4. The forbidden fruit was offered to Adam and Eve as being able to make them like God. Instead it brought them the ultimate proof of their now finite existence, death. Read Geneses 3:19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 1.5. Adam and Eve sinned. How did their sin affect you? What is the relationship? Read Romans 5:12-21 *“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned /for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. / Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the*

likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. /But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. /The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification./ For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. / So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. / For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. / And the Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, / that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

---

---

---

2. **Salvation.** If you were to ask someone if they are saved, they might wonder what you mean, saved from what? With others, an interesting question might be, ‘do you think you will ever be with God?’ What exactly is your purpose in life, as far as the creator is concerned and what are the requirements to be in his presence? R.C. Sproul takes up this question in Chapter 56 in the book, *Essentials Truths of The Christian Faith*. He states; “The question of being saved is the supreme question of the Bible. The subject matter of the sacred Scriptures is the subject of salvation. Jesus, at His conception in the womb of Mary, is announced as the Savior. Saviorhood and salvation go together. It is the role of the Savior to save.”

Yet again we ask, saved from what? The biblical meaning of salvation is broad and varied. In its simplest form the verb to save means “to be rescued from dangerous or threatening situation.” When Israel escapes defeat at the hands of her enemies in battle, she is said to be saved. When people recover from a life-threatening illness, they experience salvation. He goes on to say, “However, the Bible also used the term salvation in a specific sense to refer to our ultimate redemption from sin and reconciliation to God. In this sense, salvation is from the ultimate calamity – the judgment of God.”

2.1. Salvation is provided to us by Christ. 1 Thessalonians 1:10. "...and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come." If you have not received Christ as your personal Savior, then you can pray in faith now and receive this wonderful gift of eternal life. Read the following prayer and then in your own words and from your heart, pray to receive Jesus.

2.1.1. Dear Lord Jesus, I recognize that I am a sinner and need your forgiveness. I believe that you died on the cross for my sins. I believe that you rose again. I believe that you are alive. Right now I receive You as my personal Lord and Savior and accept your free gift of eternal life. Amen.

3. Why Jesus? This is also an essential truth. We learn in the Old Testament that no man or animal can provide salvation for the world. Yet, God requires a blood sacrifice for every sin. In Leviticus 17:11 we read, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement." And in Hebrews 10:1-4 it reads, "For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near. /Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? / But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year. /For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins." Nor can any man or woman who is directly descended from Adam take away sins. Jesus was different in many ways. Belief in Jesus is essential.

4. The virgin birth. If the blood of bulls and goats and lambs will not make full payment, what would be acceptable to God? It is God Himself offering to shed blood for our sins. Jesus was 100% man and 100% God. In order for Him to be 100% man and yet be born complete with His spirit, and not in sin or spiritless, He had to have been born of a virgin. Jesus as the sacrifice also had to be the first born. Read Luke 1:31, "And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus."

4.1. Read Isaiah 7:14 - *"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel."*



4.2. Read Matthew 1:23 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4.3. Read Romans 1:3-4 “...concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, /who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord...”

5. **Once saved always saved.** One of the first questions you may have after receiving this wonderful gift is; “Will God ever take away my gift of salvation?” Sin is very seductive. After we repent, being as sincere as our hearts will allow, we sometimes repeat sins. Under those circumstances what happens with your relationship with Jesus/God?

5.1. Do you have eternal life? 1 John 5:11-13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5.2. Can anything separate you from Christ? Romans 8:38-39 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5.3. As Christians are we free from sin. The Holy Spirit helps us to battle against the power of the flesh. Record your thoughts from Romans 8:5-9. “For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. /For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,/ because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, /and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.”  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. **All Christians are born again.** In John Chapter 3, Nicodemus is a learned man, a rabbi and a member of the powerful Sanhedrin came to Jesus by night to find out more about this man who is performing great signs. Nicodemus is a member of the ruling class and was a very religious man who spent a lot of time studying the writings of the Old Testament. As stated by Leon Morris, in his book, *The New International*



**Commentary On The New Testament, The Gospel According to John**, “Jesus is the Word become flesh. But He did not become flesh to speak on general principles. He had a purpose. He came specifically in order that men might have the abundant life (John 10:10). In this chapter (3) John furthers his purpose by recording a conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, a typical representative of Pharisaic Judaism. As such Nicodemus would have stressed the careful observance of the Law and the traditions of the elders. For the loyal Pharisee this was the way of salvation. John uses this conversation to show that all such views are wide of the mark. Not a devout regard for the Law, not even a revised presentation of Judaism is required, but a radical rebirth. The demand is repeated three times (vv. 3,5,7). Nicodemus and all his tribe of law-doers are left with not the slightest doubt but that what is asked of a man is not more law, but the power of God within him to remake him completely.”

6.1. Let’s examine the three verses that Jesus used in Chapter 3, John 3:3,5,7. You may first note that Jesus begins this discourse with the words truly, truly (or verily, verily). When Jesus uses these words in succession, it means that he is getting ready to say something extremely important. He is saying listen, pay close attention to what I am getting ready to reveal to you.

6.2. John 3:3 \_\_\_\_\_

---

This birth must be a spiritual birth. It is a birth from above. As Morris states, “The man who would enter the kingdom of God must be born in a radically new fashion, and this second birth is from heaven. Entry into the kingdom is not by way of human striving, but by a re-birth which only God can effect.”

6.3. John 3:5 \_\_\_\_\_

---

Being born of water and the spirit does not refer to baptism, but rather the regenerating activity of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit that causes the birth of the spirit within us. As you recall in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve’s spirit died. From that point on, there was no way for the individual descendent of Adam and Eve to communicate directly with God. With the re-birth of our spirit, we now have the ability to establish a direct relationship with God. Water is associated with terms like drop, dew, rain, etc. These words before they were translated, and in their original use often referred to procreation.



Jesus is explaining to Nicodemus that after being a student of the gospel (Old Testament) he should recognize that men/women cannot attain salvation by observing the Law nor is any person capable of saving themselves. This must be an act of God.

7. We have been released from the power of sin and from the condemnation of the Law. In Romans 7 many people are fascinated by Paul's description of the human struggle and frustration. In the first six verses of Chapter 7, Paul uses the analogy of marriage. Romans 7:1-6. *"Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives? / For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband. / So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man. / Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God. / For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death. / But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter."*
8. **As Christians, we have a very special privilege; it is that the Holy Spirit lives within us.** He communicates with our spirit that was born when we accepted Christ. As Charles Ryrie states in his book ***The Holy Spirit***, *"The permanent and universal-among-all-believers indwelling ministry of the Spirit is at the heart of the distinctiveness of the Spirit's work in this church age. Although He did live within some people in the Old Testament, that indwelling was neither permanently guaranteed nor universally experience even by all believers."* Ryrie goes on to say, *"Today the Holy Spirit lives in the beings of Christians only, and He does so in all Christians. This was apparently not always well known by the church, for Paul had to remind believers in the early days that this was a fact, just as it is necessary to instruct believers today of its truth."*

8.1. Read 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19

---

---

9. **Jesus is available to everyone.** Jesus said in Revelation 3:20 that he will dine with us. This is a wonderful invitation freely given to all. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9.1 In what way has He made it possible for us to come to Him? Read John 10:14-18  
*“I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, /even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. /I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd. /For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. /No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.”* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. **The Bible is the infallible inspired Word of God.** What does the Bible say about inspiration? Read 2 Timothy 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. **Repentance.** Sometimes as Christians we get full of ourselves and don't have the right attitude toward God and our neighbors. Read Luke 18:9-14. Jesus is telling this parable. He is teaching the right attitude one should have in regards to repentance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. **Justification.** Justification means to Paul God's act of remitting the sins of guilty people, and accounting them righteous, freely, by His grace, through faith in Christ, on the ground, not of their own works, but of the representative law keeping and redemptive blood shedding of the Lord Jesus on their behalf. The basic meaning is to declare righteous. Justification is a legal act. An act between man/woman and God. It is legal



in the sense that a marriage is legal. It is legal in the sense that a judge declares someone innocent or guilty. In this case God is the Judge and he declares the believing sinner righteous. It is the justification for being born again and creating in us a new spirit. In Paul Enns book, *The Moody Handbook of Theology*, justification is defined. “Justification comes from a Greek concept meaning ‘to declare righteous’. It is a legal act wherein God pronounces that the believing sinner has been credited with all the virtues of Jesus Christ. Whereas forgiveness is the negative aspect of salvation meaning the subtraction of human sin, justification is the positive aspect meaning the addition of divine righteousness.”

Justification is a gift from God. Read Romans 3:24. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. **Trinity.** The definition of Trinity is; “While there is one God, there are three eternally distinct and equal persons in the godhead, existing as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each is distinct from the other, yet the three are united as one God.” The essential oneness of God is taught in Deuteronomy 6:4. This verse not only teaches the uniqueness of God but also the unity of God.

13.1. As in Deuteronomy 6:4, God is one in essence but three persons. They do not operate as three different persons but as one God. In other words, the Father is not the Son and the Son is not the Holy Spirit, but they are all God. Each has all of the qualities of God and each possesses the fullness of God. In order to gain a better appreciation of God the Father as God, and God the Son (Jesus) as God, and God the Holy Spirit as God, let’s examine several scriptures that describe each one.

13.1.1 **God the Father is our Creator.** Read 1 Peter 4:19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13.1.2. **God the Son is our Creator.** Read Colossians 1:16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



14. **Ordinances.** There are two ordinances that were put in place by Jesus that Christians follow. These are Baptism and The Lord's Supper. Some refer the word ordinances to sacrament. As R.C. Sproul states in his book, Essentials Truths Of The Christian Faith, "The sacraments are real means of grace that convey the promises of God. Their power does not reside in the elements themselves, but in God, whose signs they are. Nor does their power depend upon the character of the faith of those who administer them, but on the integrity of God. The sacraments are nonverbal forms of communication. They were never intended to stand-alone without reference to the Word of God. Sacraments confirm the word of God and our willingness to obey Him.

15. **Jesus Christ will return in the end times.** Read Matthew 24:1-25.

- 1 *And Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him.*
- 2 *And He said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down."*
- 3 *As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"*
- 4 *And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you.*
- 5 *"For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.*
- 6 *"You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end.*
- 7 *"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.*
- 8 *"But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.*

- 9      *“Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.*
- 10     *“At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.*
- 11     *“Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.*
- 12     *“Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold.*
- 13     *“But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.*
- 14     *“This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.*
- 15     *“Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),*
- 16     *then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains;*
- 17     *Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house.*
- 18     *Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak.*
- 19     *“But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!*
- 20     *“But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.*
- 21     *For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall.*
- 22     *“And Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.*

- 23 *“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘There He is,’ do not believe him.*
- 24 *“For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.*
- 25 *“Behold, I have told you in advance.”*

16. **The commandments of Jesus.** Jesus gave us a new commandment. In John 13:34,35 he states: *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

16.1. In Matthew 22:37,39 Jesus states: *“And He said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* When you do not see the fruits of love you know that you have been exposed to counterfeit.

**Summary.** These essential truths form the basis of the historic Christian faith. It does not matter whether you represent a Catholic or Protestant denomination, we should all agree on these basic fundamentals. When other religions are presented to you and they do not measure up to these basic beliefs, then you know they are counterfeit. Many false teachings will be presented to you. Sometimes you hear them or read about them in the media. Other times false teachings come right to your door. And, in many cases, family and friends bring them into your life. The best way to recognize counterfeit is to know what you believe so well that a flag is raised in your mind when you hear or see something that does not agree with what you already know to be truth.

The necessity to be prepared. If you know your essentials, you can be used by the Holy Spirit to help someone understand the error of what they are being told, or what they might mistakenly say or believe. But more importantly, you are able to show love for each other as Christ loves the church.



During the week read/sing the following song as a reminder of this lesson.

### Redeemer - Nicole C. Mullin

Who taught the sun where to stand in the morning. Who told the ocean you can only come this far, and Who showed the moon where to hide till evening. Whose words alone can catch a falling star. The very same God that spin things in orbit, comes to the weary, the worn and the weak. And the same gentle hands that hold me when I'm broken, conquered death to bring me victory. He lives to take away my shame, and He lives forever I'll proclaim that the payment for my sin was the precious life He gave but now He's alive and there's an empty grave. I know my Redeemer lives, I know my Redeemer lives. Let all creation testify, let this life within me cry my Redeemer lives.



© 2016 by Newness of Life. You may use and copy this material as long as you give credit to Newness Of Life and refer to our web site ([NewnessOfLife.com](http://NewnessOfLife.com)). You may not use this material for commercial ventures.